

IN THE SENATE

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 105

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
3 TIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, TO THE CONGRESSIONAL
4 DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED
5 STATES, TO THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
6 AND THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
7 SERVICES.

8 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and the House of Representatives of
9 the State of Idaho assembled in the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-sec-
10 ond Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

11 WHEREAS, the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) is ad-
12 ministered by the states on behalf of the United States Department of Agri-
13 culture, and the states are subject to the rules promulgated by the United
14 States Department of Agriculture and Congress; and

15 WHEREAS, the health and welfare of the citizens of Idaho can be affected
16 by their consumption of food items purchased with SNAP benefits; and

17 WHEREAS, a comprehensive healthy Supplemental Nutritional Assistance
18 Program (SNAP) for Idaho citizens would include, and should emphasize, con-
19 sumption of healthy Idaho grown and produced products; and

20 WHEREAS, individuals who participate in healthy eating choices have
21 less chance of developing chronic diseases and therefore, are able to be more
22 productive employees, citizens and more involved in their families' lives;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, our children's futures and consequently the future of our na-
25 tion are directly impacted by the food choices that are made for our chil-
26 dren; and

27 WHEREAS, a healthy diet can consist of all food items, provided there
28 is appropriate education and emphasis given to healthier food options to in-
29 clude proteins, grains, dairy and fruits and vegetables; and

30 WHEREAS, taxpayers have a right to expect that, whenever possible, de-
31 cisions regarding the use of their tax dollars will be made at the state and
32 local level; and

33 WHEREAS, if there is more state and local authority over foods autho-
34 rized to be purchased with SNAP funds, Idaho can potentially improve the
35 health of SNAP recipients, promote Idaho grown agricultural products and
36 reduce the states' expenses for health care costs; and

37 WHEREAS, citizens may benefit from education to enable them to make
38 healthier and more cost-effective decisions about purchasing food and hav-
39 ing local control over foods authorized to be purchased with SNAP funds would
40 give state-based producers an opportunity to educate citizens about the
41 benefits of consuming their products.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular
43 Session of the Sixty-second Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of

1 Representatives concurring therein, that the Legislature calls upon the
2 President of the United States, the Secretary of Agriculture and Congress
3 to give Idaho the flexibility to have control over foods authorized for pur-
4 chase with Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and
5 to encourage healthy eating and lifestyle choices.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Idaho should be given the flexibility to
7 determine the best methods of helping our citizens create a comprehensive
8 state-based approach to promote physical activity, nutritional food selec-
9 tions, including a focus on Idaho grown agricultural products, and healthy
10 lifestyle choices.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be, and she
12 is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to
13 the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate and the
14 Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, to the congressional
15 delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United
16 States, to the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture and
17 the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.